

S.C. Floodwater Commission National Security Task Force

Jan. 24, 2019 teleconference

MINUTES

The National Security Task Force teleconference was called to order by Commission Chairman (Maj. Gen.) Tom Mullikin at 11:00 a.m., Jan. 24, 2019.

Present for the teleconference were:

Commission Chairman Tom Mullikin
Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston
Col. Bill Connor
Col. Steve Vitali
Col. Bryan Hilferty
Col. W. Thomas Smith Jr.

Mullikin said that Governor McMaster wanted everyone to know how much he (the Governor) appreciated everyone's participation, enthusiasm, and effort.

Mullikin reminded everyone that the South Carolina Floodwater Commission (herein referred to as SCFC) was very important to the Governor.

Mullikin reminded everyone that the SCFC was discussed by the Gov. both during his inaugural address and his State of the State address.

Mullikin said Gov. McMaster is planning to have a reception for the SCFC at the Governor's Mansion and that there will be a photograph of the full SCFC with the Gov. on the State House steps. The dates for both are forthcoming.

Mullikin said that among the key dates going forward are Fri., Feb. 8, for the first working Commission meeting to be held at Charles Towne Landing in Charleston. The Gov., several state legislators, and member(s) of Congress will be present.

Mullikin then discussed specifics of the Feb. 8 schedule.

The day's agenda will require five-to-10-minute updates from each of the SCFC's task forces, and the Governor wants two or three action items that will be addressed by the task force chairs.

Mullikin mentioned that, in addition to serving on the National Security Task Force, Gen. Livingston was also serving as chair of the Smart Rivers Task Force and serving on the Grid Security Task Force.

Mullikin also said, “We received guidance from the Marine Corps that the active duty components will have to serve as liaisons on this. So the Marines will be here as liaisons, and the new 3rd Army commander [following Lt. Gen. Mike Garrett] will also be in liaison status.”

Mullikin opened up the floor for nominations for task force chairman.

Mullikin said, “Several recommendations have come in, so the recommendations that the Gov. approved – that we’re offering up as a slate for consideration – were Bill Connor as chair, and Steve Vitali as secretary.”

Smith nominated Connor. Vitali seconded the motion.

Vitali nominated Smith for secretary. Livingston seconded the motion.

Mullikin asked if there were other nominations or discussions.

Connor said that he was serving as a member of the task force outside of his position with 5th Army. He added that it would all work out well, but that because of Joint Ethics Regs, he was not representing the task force from his position as EPLO.

Mullikin then asked that all in favor of the nominees say, “aye,” and all opposed say, “no.”

The nominees were unanimously confirmed.

Mullikin reminded everyone of the “short fuse” action items for Feb. 8, and planned ideas and objectives for a forthcoming White Paper.

Mullikin turned the teleconference over to the new chairman, Connor.

Connor then began a discussion of federal military installations, risks of flooding and power outages at those installations, and that the task force would be responsible for risk assessments of title 10 installations and beyond.

Livingston added, “Certainly it would have to include all defense-related facilities, including the National Guard facilities and the Reserve.”

Mullikin said that Gov. McMaster said the military in S.C. has an annual economic impact of about \$24-billion. And that DoD will be looking at those sites that are viable and have resiliency plans that get beyond extreme weather systems. Mullikin added that the Gov. wants our state to be on the vanguard in terms of forward-thinking and action

in this to protect these assets [the installations] in the economic sector. “We want to couple this with what’s coming out of DoD because we want to be viewed as a national leader in these areas,” Mullikin said.

Livingston said that “We have to remember that DoD installations are not islands unto themselves. They are attached to the communities geographically and politically and everything else.”

Livingston discussed the importance of how the waterway piece, the dams piece, the roads piece, and the utility grid piece all fit together. “What happens on the installations also may happen in the communities” because everything is interconnected.

Livingston said we initially need to determine what the installations have in place (in terms of plans) since the flooding of 2015. He said much of that is at EMD, but not all. And then we need to connect all this with what the other elements or task forces within the SCFC.

Connor discussed the criticality of installations’ EMD staffs and integrating them into this.

Livingston discussed the need for outreach to bases prior to Feb. 8 to determine their plans and internal evaluations of their systems, and in working with EMD we can look at the interconnection between the communities and the bases, and then “enhance the interface that shows we are proactively pulling the installations into the entire state evaluation.”

Livingston said this would demonstrate that the federal facilities are also part of S.C. and “we care about you.”

Connor said we would need to get all the POCs for the installations.

Livingston suggested we bring Kim Stenson [EMD director] or his designee into the task force.

Connor agreed and asked Mullikin if he was okay with Stenson.

Mullikin said, “yes.”

Smith asked Mullikin to explain to the task force the process of bringing additional, necessary experts into the task force.

Mullikin explained that we are to bring potential members – or anyone working in an official capacity with us – to him and that he would approach the Gov. for approval.

Hilferty said he would get a POC for Shaw AFB.

Connor said he would reach out to Ft. Jackson and Joint Base Charleston.

Connor and Livingston discussed POCs from National Guard bases.

Livingston added that we “need to get Gen. [Van] McCarty [incoming TAG] involved because he’ll be deeply involved in this too.”

Livingston said he would call Kim Stenson and tell him that Connor as chairman would be calling him.

Hilferty added we need a “Reserve rep.” He mentioned and discussed the background of Reserve Maj. Gen. Jeff Jacobs.

Hilferty discussed that there may be some resistance from the military because we will be discussing and potentially publishing “vulnerabilities” and that releasing information about those vulnerabilities becomes an OPSEC issue. There was a brief discussion of FOUO.

Connor mentioned additional Reserve contacts who might assist outside of their official title 10 duties.

Mullikin mentioned and discussed Lt Gen. Charles D. Luckey.

Vitali mentioned and discussed Maj. Gen. George Goldsmith.

Connor mentioned that retired, knowledgeable officers would be a strong asset.

Hilferty mentioned and discussed the importance of involving the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard.

Smith proposed a task force advisory council.

Connor said he was thinking similarly and discussed the idea further.

Mullikin reminded all that anyone having an official relationship with the Commission would still need approval from the Gov.

Vitali suggested a rep from SCE&G.

Livingston said there would be a liaison from the other two task forces on which he’s serving.

Mullikin said future teleconferences were up to the task force chairmen. “We hope that [teleconferences] will be routine, and the draft for the strategic plan for each task force needs to be 1 June, because the draft plan for the Gov. is due 1 Jul.,” said Mullikin. He discussed the importance of this.

Connor said the next conference call will be Feb. 7 at 10:00 a.m.

All agreed to be present.

Hilferty discussed Ninth Air Force [at Shaw AFB] and lessons learned from storm-response operations in Florida, and how they may assist.

Vitali discussed MCB Camp Lejeune and lessons learned from the most recent hurricane.

Connor asked Vitali to reach out to his connections in the Marine Corps, including MCRD Parris Island and the Beaufort MC Air Station, and to include Lejeune even though that base is in N.C.

Mullikin asked the task force to consider other resources – grad students, other potential staffers – who might help the task force chronicle its efforts going forward. This was briefly discussed.

Smith said the minutes will be forwarded to Mullikin and Connor, and then forwarded to the full task force by next week.

Connor made a motion to name Vitali operations officer.

Smith seconded the motion.

All said “aye,” and Vitali became operations officer.

Connor said he would reach out to the Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard.

Connor thanked everyone and officially closed the conference.

Submitted by W. Thomas Smith Jr., Jan. 26, 2019